

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates and takes note of the withdrawal of prior grounds of rejection in view of Miskin (5,830,010) and Green (5,409,384).

An objection was raised with respect to Claims 5-8, in terms of referring to "a housing" instead of "the housing", with reference back to Claim 1. Applicant has amended these claims to remedy this situation. In Claim 6, "wall forms" has been changed to "walls form", as well. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13 have now been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by a patent to Yabe (U.S. 4,895,138). Applicant appreciates the inclusion of the annotated version of FIG. 2 of Yabe, which aids in clarifying the Examiner's interpretation of the Yabe patent. Applicant believes that the amendments made in Claim 1 herein obviate the rejection, and render the claims allowable over the Yabe patent.

Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the molding mass is distributed in the basin such that the connection portion of the electrical conductor track element and the connection zone of the electrical component are completely covered by the molding mass, without completely covering the entire track element.

Support for this claim limitation may be found at Figure 2, and zones 12a and 12b of track element 2 illustrated therein, as well as the corresponding description at pages 6 and 7 of the specification. Such a structure is not disclosed or suggested by the Yabe patent.

In the structure disclosed in the Yabe patent, the item 35 asserted to constitute a "track element" is completely embedded or covered by the bonding material 58. The Yabe patent, at Column 4, lines 13-15, specifically notes that, "flexible board 35, electronic components 31 and connecting portion of electric code 36 are buried in bonding material" (emphasis added), a construction that is borne out in the drawing figures.

It is thus clear that the flexible, multi-layer foil-like track element of the present invention differs in significant respects from the flexible board 35 disclosed in Yabe. In the present invention, the track element has a connection portion (at least one connection portion) to which an electrical component is connected. The connection zone of the electrical component and the connection portion of the track element are completely covered by the molding mass, whereas the track element is not covered in its entirety by the molding mass. Thus, there may be additional (second, third, etc.) connection portions to which electrical components are connected in the same manner as is the claimed "at least one" connection portion. The claimed construction would allow these additional electrical components to be connected at different times. In contrast, since element 35 in Yabe is "buried" in the bonding material, whatever connections are to be made must be made prior to the bonding material being introduced.

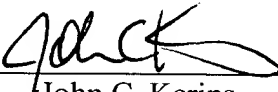
Accordingly, the Yabe patent does not disclose, suggest, or render obvious the invention as now set forth in Claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13 under 35 USC §102(b) in view of Yabe are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that all claims as currently presented are allowable over the prior art of record, and are, in all other respects, in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections and rejections are respectfully requested. Passage of the application to issue at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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